

An early action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GERHARD NEUBAUER ET AL.

By

Robert H. Bachman  
Attorney for Applicants

Area Code: 203  
Telephone: 777-6628  
Telefax : 865-0297

Date: July 9, 2001

卷之三

Express Mail Label  
No. EL394336097US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on July 9, 2001  
(Date of Deposit)

Antoinette Sullo

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney  
*Autzenity Lullo*

Signature

1-9-07

**Date of Signature**

AMENDED CLAIMS

4. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that arranged adjacent to the welding device (30) are two closing roller devices (94, 96) which each have more than two closing rollers (98) which are distributed at the periphery and which mutually adjoin.

6. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that the shaping device (36) has a base element (84) on which pairs of shaping rollers are arranged in succession at mutual spacings in the advance direction of the metal strip (38) to be shaped, wherein the base element (84) is displaceable in the second direction in space (y) transversely with respect to the production line (16) and in the third direction in space (z) vertically and is pivotable about a pivot axis oriented in the second direction in space (y) and about a pivot axis oriented in the third direction in space (z).

8. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that arranged upstream of the shaping device (36) in the production direction

DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT

is a metal strip unwinding device (44) which is displaceable in the second direction in space (y) transversely with respect to the production line (16).

12. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that the cooling device (50) has an elongate liquid bath (52) with a nozzle device and with composite tube hold-down devices, wherein the nozzle device is formed with mutually spaced nozzle openings which are directed towards the production line (16).

15. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that provided downstream of the cooling device (50) in the production direction (28) is an optical tube monitoring device (54), a printer (56), a tube draw-off device (58) and a tube winding-on device (60).

17. (Amended) An installation as set forth in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterised in that there is provided a two-part base device (66) comprising a first base portion (62) and a second base portion (64), wherein arranged on the first base portion (62) are the metal strip unwinding device (44), the metal strip storage device (48) and the extruder

station (12), arranged on the second base portion (64) are the optical tube monitoring device (54), the printer (56), the tube draw-off device (58) and the tube winding-on device (60), and the first and second base portions (62, 64) are connected together by means of the cooling device (50).